

May 14.

DEVELOPING THE CLAM FLATS.

Dr. FIELD GAVE INTERESTING ADDRESS ON DESTROYABLE LEGISLATION.

Corrected Many Misconceptions Regarding Proposed Law.

Interesting and instructive in a marked degree was the lecture given by George W. Field, chairman of the Massachusetts fish and game commission, at McClure chapel last evening, under the auspices of the Board of Trade, and it is to be greatly regretted that a larger number did not avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing an authority talk on a matter of such local importance.

Dr. Field took for his subject, "The Possibilities of Development of the Land Under Water for the Growing of Shellfish." The lecture was copiously illustrated with stereopticon views presented by David L. Belding, biologist of the commission.

Dr. Field was introduced by Vice President Fred A. Pearce of the Board of Trade, and was cordially received. He discussed the way the flats had been denuded of their clam, oyster, quahaug and scallop supply all along the Massachusetts coast, and claimed that some general legislation was necessary to make them again productive in a commercial sense, and showed how comparatively easy it would be to do this, how it could be done, and what financial and food supply benefit it would be.

He spoke of the too frequently accepted fallacy that all lands between the tide marks are held in common by the inhabitants of the shore communities, to the exclusion of citizens from other sections of the state, and quoted the ancient law and decisions of high courts in the matter. This land was all owned in common, in the broadest sense of the word, in the first place. He admitted that the laws in the matter, generally speaking, were in a confused state, and what was necessary in the first place was to get some sort of legislation that would make it possible to take up this matter of

Making the Flats Productive in a Sure and Certain Manner.

The shell fisheries of the state were a big asset and they should be made to continue to be, for no state was more fortunately located than Massachusetts in this respect.

The close season had always been pushed forward by some as a panacea for all fishery ills. If we have a close season on oysters, why not have a close season on potatoes? It would work about as well. Many are fond of quoting Huxley, who said that no device that man could ever bring about could limit the number of animals in the sea. This theory, nowadays, could easily be proved to be false.

He showed how the work of laying out oyster beds, under grants, had increased the supply, and asked if it would work for oysters, why not for clams? He showed that clams come to a commercial size the second year, and emphasized the need of safeguarding the flats, and recommended that one-half the flats be taken for lease and the other half for public use.

Some of the towns had very selfish laws regarding the flats and there was a confused mass of unwise legislation as the result.

At present it was a question of bringing public opinion to bear in the matter, and he thought that when it was fully understood what was proposed to do in the matter of making grants of flats and the good that would come of it, it would have its effect on legislation.

In this vicinity are some 800 acres of flats available, and at the present time very little of this area was productive. As he figured it, the clam fishery now in this vicinity was worth about \$8000 annually, whereas, by proper care and seeding of the granted as well as the public areas, it could be made worth \$70,000 a year, and a man would have no trouble in digging 600 bushels annually in his spare time.

The Future of the Mollusk Business depends absolutely, completely, upon private exploitation and control of the mollusk grounds. On account of popular misconceptions, an extensive campaign of education is necessary.

In effect, the proposal is but the extension of the oyster laws to grounds suitable both to growing both the long and round clams, scallops and any other food or bait mollusks.

The special crux is the question of the degree of town or state control. The present laws place the control in towns or cities, and this has its defects, and it would be to the advantage of all to have the flats under the care of the state. He outlined a plan of having the land leased not to exceed one-half the available territory in any vicinity. There should be an annual rental for these leased plots, one-half to go to the state for maintenance and the other half to the town in which the flats were located. Riparian owners should have options, and when there were two applicants for the same piece of flats, it might be leased to the highest bidder.

In closing he urged strongly the need of good wise legislation and then spent half an hour in answering questions of his auditors who were interested in the subject.

May 14.

NO NEWS FROM SEINING FLEET.

But Vessels Have Had Hardly Time to Reach Location of Fish.

More of the Fleet Are Home to Fit for Cape Shore.

There is nothing of an encouraging nature in the mackerel situation out south to report this morning. There were no seiners in at New York up to 10 o'clock this morning, but as the fleet has hardly had time to get down to where sch. Constellation and others got their fish and get back, and make a haul in the meantime, there is nothing to do but sit and wait.

The wise ones are looking for some of the seiners to show up at Fulton Market tomorrow or Sunday and all are hoping that their prediction comes true.

Since yesterday noon, 16 sail of the southern seining fleet have arrived home to refit and most of them will go to the Cape Shore, although some are talking of going back out south and have a look at least before swinging her off for Cape Sable. The crafts home since yesterday noon are schs. Natalie J. Nelson, Romance, Pinta, Arabia, Arcadia, Slade Gorton, Cynthia, Lena and Maud, Speculator, Francis J. O'Hara, Jr., Grayling, Judique, Lizzie M. Stanley, Arthur James and Benjamin A. Smith and Hattie A. Heckman. Today There is a Grand Hustle at the Wharves,

the men "filling" salt, the cooks getting their food supply and the captains tearing around generally, all ordering their ice and all wanting to get it delivered ahead of the "other fellow" while the boatswains are getting new coils of rope, extra oars, bits of necessary iron work, ballers, rowlocks and a hundred and one little things, each small in themselves, but all necessary to the voyage.

A few of the vessels will get out Saturday but the most of them are figuring on a grand getaway, all in a heap.

Most of the skippers figure that because the fish are late out south it is no reason, or does not follow that the schools will be late on the Cape Shore. The fish that strike in on the latter coast, generally about May 22, do not vary more than three days in their first appearance there, year after year, and are known to be an entirely different body of fish than that which comes out south.

There are now four vessels in the harbor fitting for mackerel seining, schs. Mertis H. Perry, Moaniam, Morning Star and Gladiator.

Sloop Sarah has sailed south netting under command of Capt. Edward Carter. The medium mackerel recently landed at New York weighed two pounds each, the largest ones going from three to four pounds each. The mediums went 80 to 85 to a barrel and the large 55 to 65 fish to the barrel.

Boston had 15 barrels of fresh mackerel yesterday from Edgartown and Vineyard Haven.

Netters at New York.

The following netters are at New York this morning:

Sch. Priscilla, 1200 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. Crustacean, 400 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. Lief Errickson, 1900 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. A. P. Parkhurst, 600 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. Mabel Bryson, 2100 large fresh mackerel.

The fish were caught off Barragat and the Highlands of Navesink.

Netters at Newport.

The following netters were at Newport yesterday:

Sloop Clara T., 150 fresh mackerel.

Sloop Mollie M., 160 fresh mackerel.

Sloop Climax, 50 fresh mackerel.

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BOSTON'S FISH STORY.

Light Fares Make It Dull and Uninteresting.

Boston's fish story this morning is neither long or interesting. Only seven vessels are in and even though they have small catches the fish are worth practically nothing. Trade is so dull that the dealers do not want the fish.

There are only about 65,000 pounds there in all. Haddock are bringing \$1.75 per hundred weight, while large cod are going begging at the same figure, with market cod at \$1, and hake at 75 cents.

Sch. Benjamin F. Phillips is the only off-shore craft in. She has been out 12 days and has only 24,000 pounds, which shows how scarce the fleet is finding fish.

"WALLOPED THE POLLOCK."

Sch. Thomas J. Carroll Lands Fare of 100,000 Pounds.

Sch. Thomas J. Carroll, Capt. Charles Forbes, one of the pollock seining fleet, arrived here this forenoon with a big catch, 100,000 pounds of fresh round pollock, the largest catch of the season in this line.

The most of the fare was taken yesterday off Cape Cod, and the craft has about all she will carry, and when she came up the harbor she seemed to be deck to the water under the weight of her big catch.

Outside of the Carroll's big fare, there are but few vessels here today with fish. Sch. Juniata is here from Boston with 35,000 pounds of fresh hake and sch. Rena A. Percy is also here from the Hub with a like amount of hake and cusk. Three of the pollock seining fleet of gasliners, Bessie A., Quartette and Water Witch, have from 9000 to 15,000 pounds each, and this is all there is to it as far as fish fares are concerned.

Fishermen Deserted Vessel.

Capt. Parsons of the Newfoundland fishing schooner Linda Tibbo, and Constable Sandy Hood were engaged Friday at North Sydney, C. B., in search of four members of the vessel's crew who deserted on Monday. Since leaving the vessel the men are said to have camped in the woods near Kelly's farm and Pottle's lake. Wednesday afternoon the two sleuths learned of the camp and at once went to the place, but the men were not there, although there were many evidences of their having occupied the spot but a very short time previously. The deserters, it appears, learned of the approach of the captain and the constables while the latter were on their way to the woods and made a detour into town and escaped their pursuers. Later in the evening, however, two of the runaways were located and taken aboard the vessel.

The present trip is the first that the four men have made in a fishing schooner and their reason for deserting is that their experiences have not been to their liking. When they shipped on the Tibbo they did so with the object of liquidating a debt to the vessel's owners, and as their share of the catch is sufficient to satisfy the claims against them, they felt justified in leaving the schooner and taking a chance of finding something to do in Cape Breton.

Fishing Facts and Fancies.

The Japanese fishing schooner Sunburst was destroyed recently at Vancouver, B. C., by an explosion of gasoline. Two young Japanese and an elderly man named Yamashita, who were in the hold, were blown high into the air, and the latter sustained a broken leg. The two younger men were not seriously injured.

A shad weighing twelve pounds was caught in the Chesapeake Bay near Cape Charles, Va., on April 23, by Sterling Brothers. This catch is regarded as the largest this season.

Canadian Fish Movements.

Yarmouth—Small boats report good codfishing close inshore.
 Sand Point—Cod fair; lobsters scarce.
 Liverpool—Cod, haddock and herring plenty; alewives and lobsters fair.
 Lunenburg—Cod plenty; lobsters scarce.
 Musquodoboit—Lobsters plenty.
 Spry Bay—Lobsters fair.
 Port Malcom—Lobsters plenty.
 West Arichat—Cod and lobsters fair; herring scarce.
 Arichat—Cod, herring and lobsters fair.
 Frozen bait at Canso and Mulgrave.

Portland Fish Notes.

Sch. Ella M. Doughty was at Portland Wednesday with a big fare of fish, over 35,000 pounds.
 Steamer Robert & Edwin also came in with 7000 pounds of mixed fish. All kinds of fish find their way into the steamer's nets. Included in the haul made yesterday were two good sized halibut and 27 lobsters.
 Sloop Highland Belle had 1000 pounds and sloop Laconia 2000 pounds.

May 14.

BOND BADLY DEFEATED.

Has But 10 Out of 35 Seats in Newfoundland.

The sun of Ex-premier Bond of Newfoundland has been put in total eclipse by the returns of the last general election on Saturday. The returns are now practically complete, and show the overwhelming election of Premier Morris, with whom Bond tied on elections last winter.

In the November election, each side succeeded in electing 18 members of the legislature, this tying up things to such an extent that Saturday's election was necessary.

The returns up to last night show that Premier Morris will have 26 members of the legislature against 10 supporters of Sir Robert Bond. Four districts missing, gave heavy Bondite majorities in the last election, and these are conceded to that party, so that the figures will undoubtedly stand.

The election campaign was the bitterest ever waged on the island, and the Morrisites are wild with joy and jubilantly celebrating at every city, town and hamlet.

Today's Receipts.

Sch. Juniata, via Boston, 30,000 lbs. fresh fish.
 Sch. Rena A. Percy, Bay of Fundy, 35,000 lbs. fresh fish.
 Sch. Benjamin A. Smith, south seining.
 Sch. Arthur James, south seining.
 Sch. Lizzie M. Stanley, south seining.
 Sch. Judique, south seining.
 Sch. Grayling, south seining.
 Sch. Arcadia, south seining.
 Sch. Hattie A. Heckman, south seining.
 Sch. Speculator, south seining.
 Sch. Frances J. O'Hara, Jr., south seining.
 Sch. Slade Gorton, south seining.
 Sch. Lena and Maud, south seining.
 Sch. Arabia, south seining.
 Sch. Natalie J. Nelson, south seining.
 Sch. Romance, south seining.
 Sch. Cynthia, south seining.
 Steamer Water Witch, shore, 14,000 lbs. pollock.
 Steamer Bessie A., shore, 9000 lbs. pollock.
 Steamer Quartette, shore, 15,000 lbs. pollock.
 Sch. Thomas J. Carroll, shore, 100,000, lbs. fresh pollock.
 Sch. Almeida, via Boston.
 Sch. Josie and Phebe, via Boston.
 Sch. Edith Silveira, via Boston.
 Sch. Athena, via Boston.
 Sch. Matchless, via Boston.
 Sch. Flavilla, via Boston.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Maud F. Silva, haddocking.
 Sch. Aspinet, haddocking.
 Sloop Sarah, mackerel netting.
 Sch. Gladiator, south seining.

Today's Fish Market.

Salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50 per cwt.; medium do., \$3; snapper do., \$1.75.
 Bank halibut 8 1-2 cents per pound for white and 6 1-2 cents per pound for gray.
 Salt pollock, \$1 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1; salt hake, \$1.
 Large "halibut" cod, salt, \$3 per cwt.; medium do., \$2.50; snapper do., \$1.50.
 Large "Drift" Georges cod, salt, \$3.12 1-2 per cwt.; medium do., \$2.75; snapper do., \$1.75.
 Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large, \$1.65 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.40; Eastern cod, large, \$1.55; medium do., \$1.30; cusk, \$1.50; for large, \$1.10 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 60c; hake, 60c.
 Trawl bank cod, large, \$2.75 per cwt., medium, \$2.50, snappers, \$1.50.
 Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.
 Round pollock, 50c per cwt.

Harbor Notes.

Schs. Regina and Matchless are on Burnham's railways the former repairing her shoe and keel.
 Sch. Motor is being fitted with a Lathrop gasoline engine.

Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Minerva, 3000 haddock, 2000 cod, 1000 hake.
 Sch. Stranger, 3500 haddock, 5000 cod.
 Sch. Hattie F. Knowlton, 2500 haddock, 200 cod.
 Sch. Benjamin F. Phillips, 6000 haddock, 5000 cod, 3000 hake, 10,000 cusk, 1200 halibut.
 Sch. Lena May, 2000 haddock, 500 cod.
 Sch. Matlanna, 5000 haddock, 3000 cod, 1000 hake.
 Sch. Mary T. Fallon, 500 haddock, 12,000 cod.
 Haddock, \$1.75 per cwt.; large cod, \$1.75; market cod, \$1; hake, 75 cts.

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Nova Scotia Fisherman Injured.

William Mason, one of the crew of the fishing schooner Montana lying at Boutillier's wharf, Halifax, received rather severe injuries Thursday afternoon. The schooner is fitting out for the banks, and is taking ice on board. While one of the blocks, weighing 200 pounds, was being hoisted aboard, the tackle broke, and the ice struck Mason on the head. He was rendered unconscious, and was removed to the Victoria General hospital.

Skipper Was Sick.

Sch. William H. Rider, one of the Georges handline fleet, came in this morning, after being out only a short time, being obliged to return on account of the illness of her skipper, Capt. Nils Larsen, who was taken ill on the fishing ground.

MAY CHANGE PACIFIC LOCATION.

New England Fish Company Considering Removal From Vancouver.

Dominion Government Forbids Competition in Local Market.

That the New England Fish Company, located at Vancouver, B. C., which has operated modern power fishing schooners in the waters off Queen Charlotte Islands for the last fifteen years, is seriously considering the removal of its entire plant and business, representing an investment of a million dollars, to some American port, because of the action of the Dominion government recently in forbidding the company to compete in the local market has been brought to light by the visit to Victoria, B. C., of one of the directors of the company, N. D. Freeman, of Boston, says the Vancouver World. Mr. Freeman came to Vancouver and held a consultation with the local manager of the company.

It is also known that the only alternative, aside from the removal of the company's business to some other port, which has been considered by the company's officials, is the favorable action upon by the Canadian government of a protest regarding the department's action and a request to again be allowed to sell to the local market.

Canadian fishermen are reported to be planning the operation of a fleet of fishing schooners out of Vancouver if the New England Fish Company removes its business to Bellingham, as is threatened. The Vancouver World says:

A practical combine of local fishing companies, using Canadian and British bottoms and Canadian crews throughout, and representing a total capital invested of approximately \$600,000, is preparing to fight what they term American invasion of their rightful fishing grounds and make a strenuous endeavor to raise the price of fish, which they say has been lowered from six cents at one time to 3½ cents a pound at present. Speaking authoritatively for the Canadian fish companies, Harry West, manager of the Billingsgate Fish Company, said recently:

"Things have come to such a pass with the competition in the field against us that we have been

Forced to Get Together in an Informal Way

to protect our business. With us in this, as you might call it, defensive alliance, are the Columbia Cold Storage Company, the Canadian Fish Company, the Wallace Packing Company, ourselves and several other smaller concerns, representing an aggregate of about \$600,000 and a total of two large schooners, 130 Indian canoes and some fifteen or more schooners lying idle at the present time. These are beside the Celestial Empire and the Flamingo, both large vessels. Our own schooners are the Sea Bird and the Tanana. At Port Simpson we have 50 Indian canoes fishing for us and 80 others through Wallace Brothers. The Japanese schooner Sunburst, which was burned recently, was also one of our fleet, and we took off her 26,000 pounds of fish just before she was destroyed.

"It was through our efforts, we being really the only organized concern in the local fish trade which brings fresh halibut for sale here, that the protest to the Dominion government was made regarding the New England Fish Company being allowed special privileges that were not granted to us. We hold that our competitors have not sent their best fish to the local market, but only the 'culls,' while we have always maintained a high grade of fish for our own market."

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Five Arrivals at Boston.

Only five boats are at T wharf, Boston, this morning, and they have only 27,000 pounds altogether. There is nothing doing on price, for haddock are as low as 75 cents, with about splitting prices for codfish.